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# Base advisory board starts

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A Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT) and a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) have been established at Naval Air Station Memphis.

The two groups, which are to expedite the disposal and reuse of NAS Memphis properties, have been formed in response to the

President's five-point plan issued earlier this year.

David Porter, the BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC) assigned to NAS Memphis, has been working with the base, state and federal regulatory agencies, and the community to establish these two teams. "The work of both of

these teams will play a vital role in the appropriate resolution of environmental concerns at NAS Memphis, which in turn will make property, that is being excessed by the Navy, available for reuse more quickly."

Porter is an employee of the Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command of Charleston, S.C. The Southern Division works with all Navy and Marine Corps activities within its 25-state area on all facilities-related matters, one of which is base realignments and closures. As the BEC assigned to NAS Memphis, Porter will work full-time toward completing the baseline survey that is required at all bases slated for realignment or closure, developing a cleanup plan and working with the base and the community toward a workable reuse plan.

The BRAC Cleanup Team will serve as the main forum to discuss issues affecting the execution of cleanup activities that will affect reuse. Navy and State and Federal regulatory agencies will work together to ensure that appropriate environmental response actions are executed to ensure that NAS Memphis property is made available for reuse as quickly as possible. Decisions made by this team on the approach to follow to resolve environmental issues at NAS Memphis will be based on information provided to them from the baseline environmental survey conducted from NAS Memphis, as well as input provided by the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

The primary focus of the RAB is to ensure that environmental response actions proposed by the Base Cleanup Team are understood and supported by the community, Porter said. The purpose of the RAB is to provide for the exchange of information between the Navy, government agencies, and the community regarding environmental cleanup issues.

The Navy is seeking public participation on the RAB from local citizens who have an interest in the environmental restoration and reuse of property resulting in the realignment of NAS Memphis.

The first meeting of the RAB for NAS Memphis will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Millington City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting, as well as all meetings of this RAB, will be open to the public. All interested members of the community are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, contact the NAS Memphis Public Affairs Office, 873-5761.